

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Weekly Bulletin OCT 19 1925



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Health Officers Hold Successful Conference.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Health Officers' Section of the League of California Municipalities, held in Long Beach last week, was unreservedly the best meeting of its kind ever held in California. The papers, as presented each day, set new high standards which, it would seem, may be equalled only with difficulty at future meetings of the section. The attendance was unexpectedly large, varying from 275 to 325 at each session. One of the remarkable features lies in the fact that the attendance on the first day of the convention filled the room and the attendance on the last day was equally large. The Health Officers' Section provided fully one-third of the entire registration of the League of California Municipalities at the Long Beach convention.

To Dr. G. E. McDonald, Health Officer of Long Beach, credit must be given for the perfection of all arrangements for the meeting of the Health Officers' Section and to the entertainment committee and city officials of Long Beach is due the highest praise for the excellence of all local arrangements. A very fine type of civic hospitality, unobtrusive but genuine, was manifest throughout the entire week.

The symposiums on poliomyelitis and plague, as well as the clinical demonstrations of procedures in immunization, were particularly well received. The informal discussions on methods used in diphtheria control, held early in the conference, were specially valuable to all health officials.

The practical plans for the development of maternal and infant welfare in California were clearly outlined and appealed to health officers as well as to public health nurses, of whom there was a large attendance throughout the convention.

Papers upon the subjects of tuberculosis, rural sanitation, smallpox and the county laboratory were well presented and received merited attention. It is difficult to write of this convention without resorting to superlatives. For enthusiasm, interest, high grade addresses, intelligent discussion and large attendance it would seem that a mark has been reached that will be difficult of future attainment.



Most ill-health is ignorance.



Poliomyelitis Still At Reduced Prevalence.

The continued low incidence of poliomyelitis is most encouraging. There were twenty-three cases reported last week. It is probable that the peak of the outbreak has been reached and unless there is an increased prevalence during the coming two weeks it would appear that the most serious phase of the 1925 epidemic has passed. There is still need for unrelaxed efforts in the enforcement of control measures over all cases that may be suspicious of the disease, however. Strict control at the present time will, without doubt, be a decisive factor in staying any further increase in prevalence.



Realize your ambitions.

State Examination For Public Health Nurse.

The California State Civil Service Commissioner announces that an examination for the position of Public Health Nurse with the State Board of Health, will be held in Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles as soon as possible after October 15, 1925. The salary range for the position is from \$150 to \$175 a month.

The duties of the position are, under specific direction and assignment, to perform such field nursing or public welfare work as may be required in the investigation, reporting, prevention, and correction of diseases or conditions unfavorable to the health or welfare of individuals or communities; for example, to supervise the health of school children; to visit parents for the purpose of securing treatment for children needing it; to look for unreported cases of infectious diseases, and give practical instruction in their prevention and care; and to perform other related work.

Candidates must have had education equivalent to high school graduation; must have secured registration as a nurse in the State of California; must either have completed a post-graduate university course in public health nursing or have had equivalent experience in public health nursing; must be able to instruct others and to write reports of investigations made, and must possess affability, tact and good judgment.

Completed applications must be filed with the State Civil Service Commissioner, 331 Forum Building, Sacramento, on or before October 15, 1925.



Health Officers Newly Appointed.

Dr. Matthew F. Desmond has been appointed Health Officer of Burlingame to succeed Mr. John J. Harper.

Mr. B. F. Shaul has been appointed Health Officer of Lakeport to succeed Mr. Fred Williams.



In view of the knowledge we now possess of the principles governing nutrition, as the result of many studies and observations in recent years, and steps taken to improve the nutrition of the child is manifestly an important public health activity.

Thousands of children are undernourished and their parents are not aware of the fact. This must not be interpreted as meaning starvation caused by poverty, but is due largely to the lack of proper knowledge of the food value of milk, containing as it does all the elements of a perfect food.—Indiana State Health Bulletin.

American Health Congress To Be Held Next Year.

In order to give health workers from every part of the country a bird's-eye view of the public-health movement in its broadest aspects, the National Health Council, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, has planned for an American Health Congress to be held at Atlantic City during the week of May 17, 1926.

The leading authorities on the various phases of the public-health movement, such as tuberculosis, cancer, heart disease, blindness, social and mental hygiene, public-health nursing, preventable diseases, and positive health education for both children and adults, will present the latest and most authoritative findings and programs for the solution of these problems.

Among the groups that will cooperate in the Congress are the following members of the National Health Council: American Child Health Association, American Heart Association, American Public Health Association, American Red Cross, American Social Hygiene Association, American Society for the Control of Cancer, Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America, National Committee for Mental Hygiene, National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, National Organization for Public Health Nursing, National Tuberculosis Association, United States Children's Bureau, United States Public Health Service, and Women's Foundation for Health.

In addition to these groups, it is anticipated that leading health associations of Canada, Mexico, and elsewhere will cooperate in this Congress.



The eyesight Conservation Council of America has made investigations which show that as many as 25,000,000 persons out of 42,000,000 profitably employed are handicapped by defective vision, due in large part to improper lighting facilities in schools, offices, factories and business places.—Buffalo Sanitary Bulletin.



From the standpoint of mental hygiene, indiscriminate education is, of course, wrong. The importance of the task in mental hygiene is very great. Those placed at tasks too easy learn nothing but idleness and boredom. Those placed at tasks too hard learn only failure, misery, and often mischief. The psychologist would adjust the task to the young child's capacity. In this he is a humanitarian, as well as a technical worker. He hopes to relieve some of the unhappiness of children by loading them with what they can carry and by making self-respect, diligence, and hope habitual attitudes.—Leta S. Hollingworth.

List Of Publications For Free Distribution.

Laws, Reports, Special Bulletins, Pamphlets, etc., available for distribution.

No.

3. Rabies.
 5. Diphtheria.
 6. Typhoid Fever.
 - 10a. Dietary for Tuberculosis Patients.
 11. Tuberculosis.
 15. Poliomyelitis.
 18. Sewerage Systems and Sewage Disposal Works.
 19. Scarlet Fever.
 20. Flies.
 23. Destruction of Ground Squirrels and Rats.
 24. Syphilis and Gonococcus Infections.
 25. Chickenpox, measles, mumps, whooping-cough, etc.
 26. Smallpox.
 27. Contamination of Well Water Supplies.
 34. Pneumonic Plague.
 36. Chief Difference between Smallpox and Chickenpox.
 37. How to Judge the Sanitary Quality of Private Water Supply.
 38. Sanitation and Safety of Swimming Pools.
 39. Sewage Disposal for Isolated Residences.
 40. Some Considerations Relating to the Collection and Disposal of City Refuse.
 41. Care of the Teeth.
 42. Camp Ground Sanitation.
 43. Planning and Maintaining Sewer Systems and Sewage Disposal.
 44. Mosquito and Malaria Control.
- General Health Laws.
Dental Hygiene Pamphlets.
Social Hygiene Pamphlets.
Child Welfare Pamphlets.
Weekly Bulletin.
Biennial Report.



If it were not for the fine dust which we breathe and the stagnant water which we drink, Adam's sons would live for ten centuries.—Mohammed, in the Koran.



Teaches Children To Wash Their Hands.

Dr. John J. Sippy, Health Officer of the San Joaquin Health District, Stockton, is placing posters worded as follows in school toilets throughout his district:

DO YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER TO
WASH YOUR HANDS
BEFORE LEAVING THE TOILET?
IT IS GOOD MANNERS TO BE CLEAN

In school lunch rooms, Dr. Sippy is placing posters worded as follows:

HAVE YOU WASHED YOUR
HANDS BEFORE EATING?
GOOD MANNERS AND GOOD
HEALTH REQUIRE THAT YOU DO

How Long Has Diphtheria Existed?

In ancient times diphtheria appears to have prevailed in certain countries and to have been absent in others. It was well known in Egypt, Palestine and Syria. In the writings of the physicians of Hippocrates' time there is no description of it, and the assumption is therefore made that diphtheria did not exist in ancient Greece.

Epidemics spread over parts of Europe at various times during the Middle Ages as indicated by the numerous descriptions of throat pestilences. A large epidemic started in Spain in the second half of the Sixteenth Century. In the early part of the Eighteenth Century the disease spread over the whole of Europe and into America, though indications are that in areas not attacked by epidemics the disease was extremely rare. In 1830 a pandemic spread over a large part of the world, having its height in 1850 and 1860. Since then the disease has been continuously present in nearly all civilized countries, a condition of marked contrast to its irregular occurrence before that time.

CHIEF LANDMARKS IN THE HISTORY OF DIPHTHERIA.

1765—First accurate description of the disease by Home.

1800 to 1880—Controversy as to whether disease was contagious.

1884—Discovery of diphtheria bacillus.

1890 to 1892—Discovery of diphtheria antitoxin.

1895 to 1900—General use of diphtheria antitoxin in medical practice.

1913—Discovery of immunization with toxin-antitoxin.

—Baltimore Health News.



The parent who depends upon threats and punishments to obtain desirable conduct in the child is often making heaps of work for the judge and the policeman.

When cheating the child is held in the same contempt as cheating the adult, the cynicism of adolescence will be less common.

Let every parent remember that there is no greater affliction which can be thrust upon the child than that of inheriting the type of parent who refuses to let him grow up.

We must all bear in mind that the home is a workshop which unfortunately spoils much good material.—Douglas A. Thom, M.D.

MORBIDITY.***Diphtheria.**

77 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 14, Los Angeles County 9, Stanislaus County 7, Fresno 7, Oakland 6, Anaheim 1, Monterey 1, Merced County 1, Pasadena 1, San Diego County 1, Oceanside 1, Berkeley 1, San Diego 3, Riverside County 1, Long Beach 1, Richmond 1, Modesto 3, Glendale 1, Selma 1, Sonoma County 3, San Francisco 3, Sacramento 3, Colfax 2, Fresno County 4, Riverside 1.

Measles.

17 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 5, Oakland 2, Los Angeles 1, Riverside 1, La Mesa 1, Long Beach 1, Berkeley 1, Alhambra 1, Corning 1, Palo Alto 1, Santa Ana 1, San Bernardino 1.

Scarlet Fever.

54 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 14, Los Angeles County 6, San Francisco 7, San Luis Obispo County 4, San Jose 3, Richmond 1, San Diego 1, Pomona 1, San Fernando 1, Fresno 3, Santa Clara County 1, Redlands 1, Chico 1, Fresno County 1, Oakland 3, Kern County 3, Sacramento 1, Glendale 1, San Bernardino 1.

Smallpox.

13 cases of smallpox have been reported, as

follows: Los Angeles 6, Richmond 2, San Francisco 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 3.

Typhoid Fever.

16 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Stockton 1, San Joaquin County 1, San Jose 1, San Francisco 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego 2, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Riverside County 2, California 1.

Whooping Cough.

43 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: San Diego 12, Los Angeles 8, San Francisco 7, Los Angeles County 5, Alhambra 4, Alameda 3, Corning 1, Berkeley 3.

Poliomyelitis.

9 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Stanislaus County 1, Orange County 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 2, Fresno 1, Berkeley 1, Los Angeles County 2.

Epidemic Meningitis.

San Fernando and Sacramento each reported one case of epidemic meningitis.

*From reports received on October 5th and 6th for week ending October 3d.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

	1925				1924			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Oct. 3 received by Oct. 6	Week ending			Reports for week ending Oct. 4 received by Oct. 7
	Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Sept. 26		Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	
Anthrax.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chickenpox.....	22	35	41	49	31	49	52	55
Diphtheria.....	56	84	90	77	122	127	159	185
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	4	2	2	2	1	0	0	0
Epidemic Encephalitis.....	2	2	2	0	3	2	2	0
Epidemic Meningitis.....	5	2	1	2	1	1	2	3
Gonorrhoea.....	85	299	77	70	117	100	107	111
Influenza.....	5	12	11	5	6	6	9	18
Leprosy.....	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	2
Malaria.....	5	2	4	3	4	5	2	2
Measles.....	12	12	16	17	6	12	14	17
Mumps.....	35	70	110	84	24	33	40	32
Pneumonia (lobar).....	55	15	24	29	19	25	32	37
Poliomyelitis.....	19	23	22	9	5	3	7	3
Scarlet Fever.....	34	39	55	54	44	61	90	76
Smallpox.....	14	19	20	13	52	66	47	42
Syphilis.....	127	220	116	80	184	117	120	143
Tuberculosis.....	125	153	183	129	137	172	172	182
Typhoid Fever.....	21	20	28	16	29	19	34	41
Whooping Cough.....	90	83	76	43	57	53	42	46
Totals.....	717	1094	878	682	842	852	931	996

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